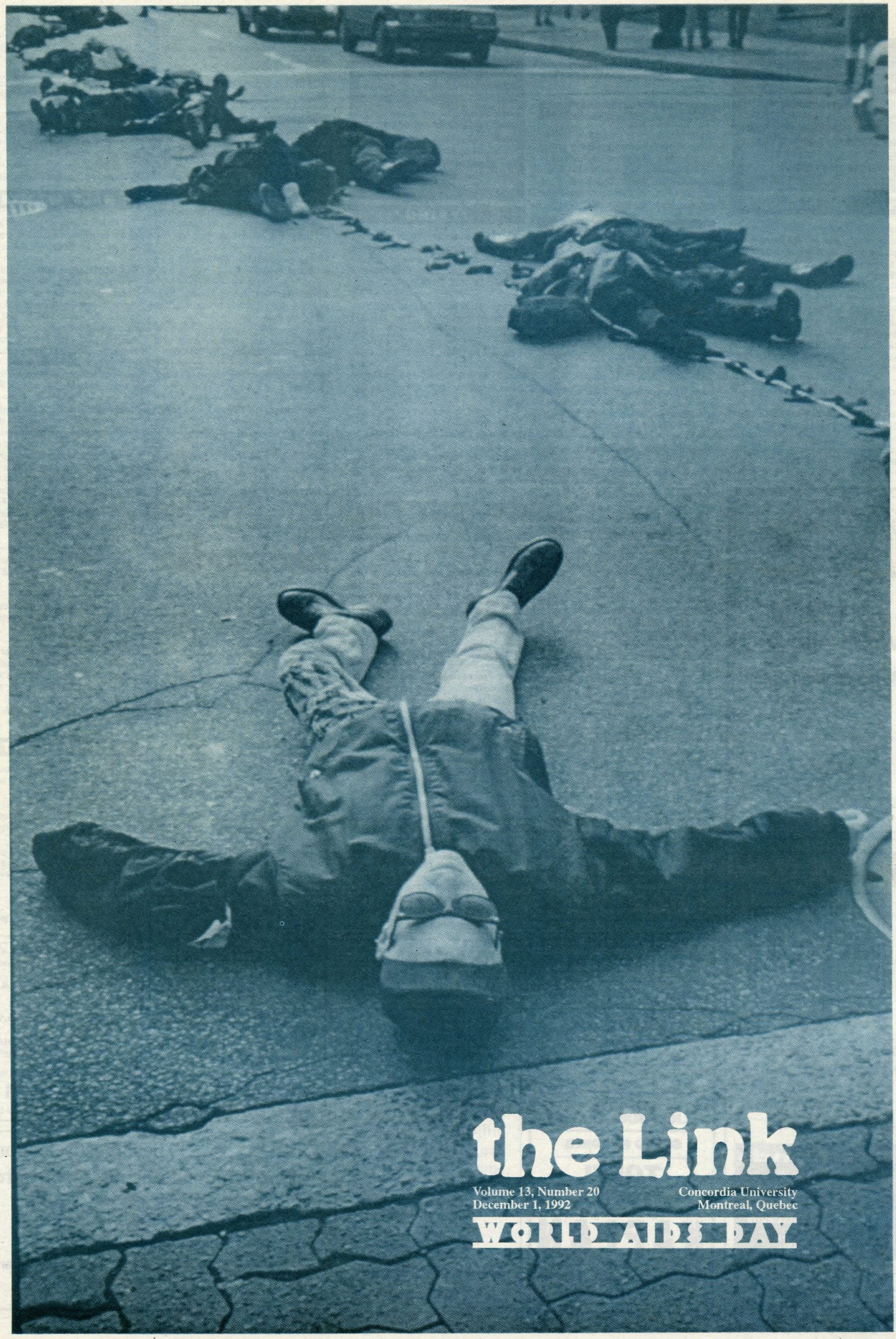

the Link

Volume 13, Number 20
December 1, 1992

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

WORLD AIDS DAY

AGENDA

The Agenda is a FREE service to publicize Concordia-related events. Space priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info. at our office, room H-649 in the Hall Building, or mail it in, indicating AGENDA on the envelope. Deadlines are 5 pm Friday for Tuesday issues, and 5pm Wednesday for Friday issues.

Wednesday, December 2

Demonstrate! Just say no to the goon squad. Journalists in support of Virgil Grandfield: a Concordia Journalism student who was beaten up by metro security in the Guy metro station on November 26. Noon.

Free Films: the Loyola film series continues today with "The Tall T" at 7pm, and "The Quiet Man" at 8:30pm. FC Smith auditorium. Presented by the Department of Communication Studies, in conjunction with the Conservatory of Cinematographic Art. Info: 848-3878.

Lecture: the Simone de Beauvoir Institute presents a Series on Politics and Women's Lives. Jean Parris, President of the Congress of Black Women, Montreal chapter will present "Love Thyself." 6:30pm, the lounge of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, 2170 Bishop street. Info/reservations: 848-2373.

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December 1st

World AIDS Day

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Thursday, December 3

Philosophy Christmas wine and cheese at the Loyola faculty club, AD-308, at 8pm. Info: 487-2286.

Friday, December 4

Benefit for CKHQ - the Kahnesatake Mohawk Radio Station. Performing: Bagg Street Klozmer Band, Shingi and the Rap Poets, Rhythm Activism, and more! At the Union Francaise - 429 Viger St. Presented by the Regroupement de Solidarité avec les autochtones. Info: 982-6606.

GENERAL

Turkey drive: AIDS Community Care, Montreal (ACCM) is holding a turkey drive to fill holiday food baskets. If you can donate a turkey or money, please call 485-2495 or 939-0075. Tax receipts supplied.

Notice: The Anti-Apartheid Movement of Concordia was to have had a film festival on December 1st. This event has been postponed until mid-January, exact date to be announced. Info: 848-7410.

Buddy System for Disabled Students. Wanted: Students with (in)visible disabilities whose recreational need are not currently being met. Call Tamara @ 487-1583 for info.

Model UN Group: meetings on Thursdays, 7pm (sharp!) at 2150 Bishop, Annex D. Everyone welcome. Info: 848-7409.

Hey you psych students! As the largest department in the school, come to the Psych students association meetings and speak your mind! Tuesdays, P-205 (2020 Mackay). Info: 848-7487.

Montréal Sexual Assault Centre, 24 hour crisis line: 934-4504.

Maison Tanguay is looking for books in good condition for their library. Recent knitting magazines and French bestsellers are especially welcome. Call Terri: 934-3176

Careers Library: stumped about your future occupation? There are a multitude of jobs which could meet your interests & abilities. The Careers Library provides a wide variety of materials on career planning and job search technique. Counselling and Development: 848-3545/3555.

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Down on your luck and even KD is looking real gourmet right about now? The Campus Ministry has a food voucher programme, for more information call 848-3588.

Continued on page 4

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Our laboratory is seeking volunteers to participate in studies on cognitive abilities. These experiments may or may not involve testing for hypnotic susceptibility. If interested, call our laboratory at 848-2213 and leave you name and phone number on the answering machine. One of our graduate students will contact you in order to provide you with more details and scheduling possibilities. Volunteers will be paid for their participation. This research is supervised by Drs. Laurence and Perry.

Unlimited Earnings: major long-distance telecommunications company is seeking representatives to register residential & business customers, who can save up to 60% on international long distance telephone calls. Work at your own pace & hours. Earnings guaranteed. Representatives must be able to communicate in an ethnic language, i.e. a language other than English or French, for example: Greek, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Egyptian, Arabic, Japanese Etc. For information call 276-9437.

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Continued on page 4

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AIDS black ribbon demo draws 300

by Ita Kendall

Battle-weary activists joined first-time demonstrators on the line this Saturday to mark the ravages of AIDS in Canada.

Over 300 people carried a thick yellow rope longer than a city block down Ste. Catherine Street from Peel to the end of the march in the gay village. The rope was tied with 2,000 black ribbons, representing the number of deaths from AIDS in this country this year.

"We like to steer clear of typical demos and we wanted a powerful visual image," said Jo-Anne Pickel, of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP).

Pickel said ACT UP started planning the march more than a month ago. She said she was pleased with the high attendance at this year's march and hopes many of the marchers will be inspired by the demonstration and continue AIDS activism.

"People come to the AIDS demo but the rest of the year they are not involved," she said.

Marchers had different reasons for taking part in the protest.

David Ore said he hoped the march would make people stop and think.

"My boyfriend died two years ago and I've lost too many friends to AIDS," he said. "I'm tired of nothing being done.

"The man right behind me lost his lover four or five months ago. The man in front of me lost his cousin."

But Ore admitted he was somewhat cynical about the march.

"I see our presence here as a challenge for anyone who's got eyes, and unfortunately not too many people do," he said.

Some people may not have been able to believe their eyes when all 300 marchers dropped for a "die-in" on Ste. Catherine near Bleury. With traffic whizzing past their bodies, the protesters became the symbols of their dead lovers, friends and family for a few minutes.

"Kristina, welcome to your first die-in," Ore shouted to Kristina Jura, a protester a few bodies down the line.

"Instant resurrection," he added as he got up. "Too bad we can't do it for some of our friends."

Like Ore, Jura was drawn to the march for both personal and political reasons.

"One of my closest friends for 30 years has just died from AIDS," she said. "I'm marching so I can sleep at night and look at myself in the mirror in the morning."

And if marching isn't enough, Jura said she will use her vote to "elect people who will truly do something about AIDS and not just sit and talk about it."

The only connection Adriana Barton has to AIDS is talking about it.

Barton said she took part in the protest because she feels AIDS is like "a bad science fiction novel that doesn't feel real."

"It doesn't seem real to me that each black ribbon is a death," said Barton, looking at the section of yellow rope she was holding.

"I'm here to increase my own awareness as much as the awareness of others," she added.

Barton's views were shared by several other marchers.

"Not enough people are aware or doing enough to keep from getting HIV," said Jennifer Katz-Douek, a student from Dawson College.

"The goal of this march is to raise awareness and we are getting a lot of stares and attention, so it is fulfilling its goals."

Lisa Jutras said she was marching because "it just makes me feel a little better" about the AIDS crisis.

She said she wants to spend more time and energy on AIDS.

Jutras is an volunteer for AIDS Community Care of Montreal (ACCM). She is waiting to be matched up with a person with AIDS as part of ACCM's buddy program.

"I'm a single parent and I spend most of my days working. I'm healthy and sometimes I'm lonely," she said.

"I can just imagine what it is like to be sick and lonely and alone."

PHOTO BY NIKOL MIKUS

Marchers snake down Ste. Catherine, carrying rope with black ribbons for each of 2000 AIDS deaths.

Photo-snapping student detained by Metro cops

Protesters plan to gather at the Guy-Concordia Metro at noon Wednesday in support of a Concordia journalism student who was allegedly beaten by Metro police.

Virgil Grandfield was taking pictures of a Metro musician last Wednesday night when two Metro police officers began questioning the musician.

One of the officers motioned for him to go away but Grandfield continued to snap photos.

"I think I took one more picture...(then one of the two officers) hit me in the left shoulder and crushed me up against the wall," Grandfield said.

They then handcuffed him and told him he was being arrested for obstructing police officers from carrying out their duties.

As he was being dragged into a room just beneath the Metro overpass, one of the officers told him, "now no one's going to hear you," Grandfield recalled.

"They were so irrational, so crazy, I thought I was going to die," he said.

Grandfield said he began calling out to bystanders for police and was struck on the neck, ear and cheek.

Once inside the security office, Grandfield said he was repeatedly kicked and knocked onto the concrete floor.

Jean Savard, press attaché for the Montreal Urban Community Transit Corporation, said the officers arrested Grandfield because he was gathering a crowd, talking to the musician and telling bystanders the police were harassing the musician unfairly.

"Our job isn't repression, it's assuring the security of people taking the Metro," said Savard.

But Grandfield said the police report has it backwards.

"It's an absolute lie. I told the crowd I was just taking a picture after I was arrested. I didn't resist until I got down (to the room below the overpass)," he said.

"There's necessary force, then there's knocking someone down when they're standing up for their rights."

Grandfield is scheduled to appear in court in February.

—Neil Kandalgaonkar

Don't forget to make a will or government will get it all

People with AIDS advised to plan ahead

by Mark Brooker

People with AIDS or HIV should make sure their legal affairs are in order before they die, Montreal lawyer Howard Ginsberg says.

Ginsberg, speaking at a conference on AIDS and the law Saturday night, warns people with AIDS and those who are HIV positive to make sure they prepare wills and check their insurance policies.

"Be informed and plan ahead now. Too many people forget to write a will, read their insurance policies and plan for the time when they may not be able to make those decisions," he says.

"If you don't get your affairs in order now, the government will gladly help itself to your estate when you are gone."

Ginsberg says if someone dies without leaving a will, his or her relatives will get the estate. A lover or best friend cannot claim the deceased person's assets.

"There is no such thing as a common-law couple in Quebec," says Ginsberg. "You can live together for 4000 years but without a will, the survivor gets nothing. With a will, you can give anything to anyone."

He says people can also write a holograph will. It must be handwritten and dated and no witnesses are needed.

He also suggests a residual heir be included in the will. This means any assets not mentioned in the will would go to the residual heir and not the government.

"Leave a list of all your assets with the will, not everyone may know about your bank account in Florida or your rented wine cellar," Ginsberg adds.

This information was very useful for Jean, whose lover is HIV positive.

"It never occurred to me that we had any reason to worry about wills. We've heard about parents fighting with surviving lovers but I didn't know a will could solve the problem," he says.

Ginsberg also talks about "living wills," which have been legal in Quebec for two years. The "living wills," or mandates as they are called here, must be written while the individual is mentally competent. While they do not allow for

continued on page 9

PHOTO BY JOSÉE CHAINEY

Lawyer Howard Ginsberg spoke on AIDS and para-legal issues.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Continued from page 2

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GENERAL

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Graduate Student Get-togethers, School of Graduate Studies. The academic year 1992-93 is the inaugural year for the School of Graduate Studies. It will prove to be exciting and will provide us with the opportunity to initiate projects, such as promoting a lecture series by visiting speakers and other similar ventures. to forge stronger links between faculty and students and to stimulate scholarly debate within the community. In addition, Dean Martin Kusy would like to meet with graduate students so we have arranged "get-togethers" for this purpose. There will be two such sessions each semester at our Graduate Administrative offices, 2145 Mackay Street. They will be held from 6pm to 8pm on the following dates: First semester, Tuesday, October 6, 1992, Thursday, November 12, 1992. Second semester: Wednesday, February 3, 1993, Monday, March 8, 1993. Because our space is limited, I ask that you please reserve one of the following dates by contacting Ms. Kali Sakell at 848-3803 if you are interested in attending. We look forward to seeing you.

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Lost - silver ring with large diamond-like stone. Enormous sentimental value. Reward. 284-0096.

AGENDA

Continued from page 2

Services for Disabled Students - Advocacy and Support Services. We need qualified and willing volunteers to help us deliver many of the services our students use, eg. readers, tutors assistants. For more information: 848-3525; (Voice and TDD) - SGW H-580, 848-3536; (Voice and TDD) Loyola AD-121. Office hours: 9am - 5pm.

AIDS hotline: CSAM (Comité SIDA Aide Montréal) 282-9991.

Continued on page 12

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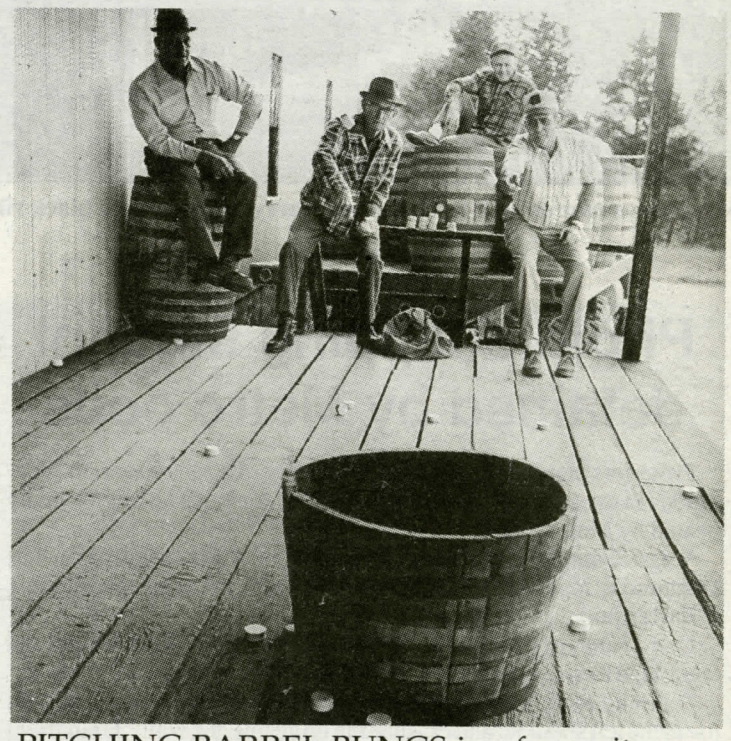

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The Link welcomes letters to the editor from its readers. We are committed to printing all letters we receive which are: not more than 400 words, typed legibly, not libelous, sexist, racist, homophobic, ageist, or classist, and signed by the author. If necessary, anonymity can be arranged through prior consultation with the editor. Lastly, please include a phone number.

Concordia insecurity

It is policy at Concordia not to let anyone into the Hall building before 7:45 on weekdays. The other day I walked into Hall at 7:15 with another gentleman who was carrying a briefcase, wearing a suit and tie. I on the other hand had a Concordia school bag slung over my shoulder, wearing jeans and an untied pair of shoes. We were both headed toward the escalator in the main lobby. While he was well on his way up to the next floor, I was just about to put a foot on the first step.

That's when a shout from security called me over. I was first told to present and ID card and then asked if I had an after hours pass. I don't have a pass so I was told to wait in the lobby until 7:45. (This is not, by the way, the first time that this has happened but I like to try them every now and then to see if things have changed.)

On previous attempts I conceded and waited in the lobby. This time I decided to try something not previously possible. I walked across the street into the new library building, entered the underground tunnel (hoping all along that they had not locked any of the numerous *sets* of doors that they had installed between the two buildings for security reasons) and made my way to the elevators in the basement of the Hall building. before I realized it, I was writing this letter in the cafeteria on the 7th floor at 7:20 am.

There are three things which are very disturbing about this entire incident. The first, which is least surprising, is the incompetence with which security implements its own guidelines. It certainly doesn't take a molecular biologist to figure out that to effectively inhibit entrance into a building, one must block off *all* possible entrances. The second is security's view or interpretation of a student. Security is comfortable harassing students, but sport a suit and tie, carry a briefcase, and they become intimidated if not ignorant regardless of who you are. We as students are no more of a threat than anyone else and we undoubtedly deserve to be treated with the same respect. The third is that a regulation exists which does not allow an ID-holding Concordia student into his or her own school whose entire income exists only because of those very same students.

Ted Gamrat
Biology

Simply put...

Re: Sue Skoda's remarkably self-congratulatory "comment" in the Nov. 24 *Link* ("Fit bodies our 'real' bodies"):

Feminism and nanaimo bars are not mutually exclusive.

Laurel Stevens

Spirits in the material world

First, I'd like to thank all *the Link* volunteers for our newspaper. A selfless spirit is the strongest force there is, as some of you may be realizing. May the spirit of love and truth guide your efforts.

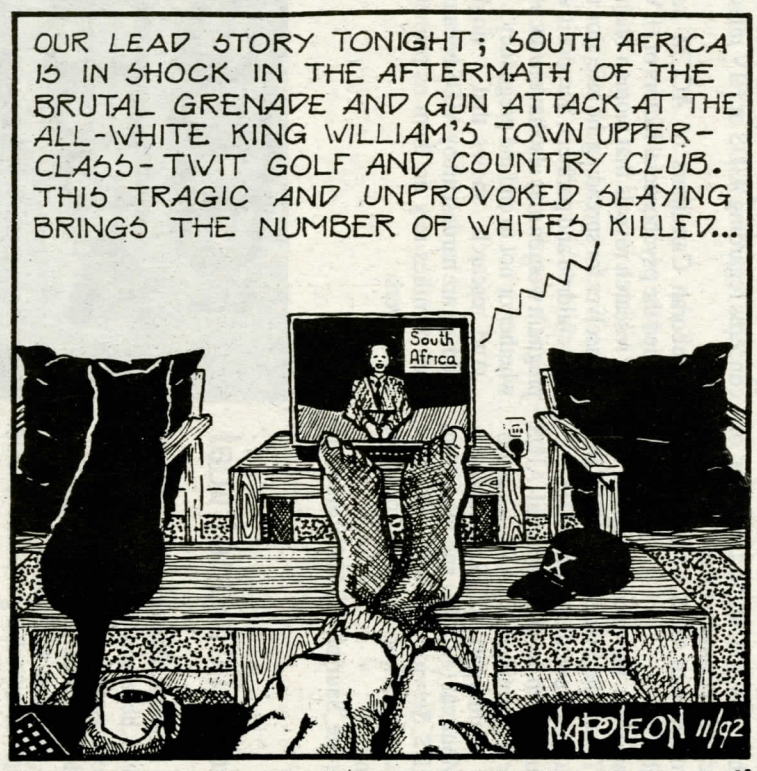
I very much enjoyed the article "Challenging the pin-striped suits" by Phil Moscovitch in the Nov. 17th issue. It is wonderful to read about the tip of a higher, gentler awareness bobbing to the surface of our consciousness, an iceberg of creativity breaking through the surface tension of what is basically fear, one our greatest enemies.

I would also like to say something about a subject that I've seen quite often in *the Link*: the human brain size studies, which state that brain sizes differ by race (black, white, Asian). I have noticed the fierceness of the attacks on the studies and its authors by some writers in *the Link*. I do not know what these writers are defending. It seems, however, that these writers believe that brain size indicates virtue. Would they be reacting similarly if researchers found differing foot sizes between the races? or spleen volumes? or rates of ear wax production? Probably not.

A large brain isn't a virtue by itself. Virtue exists in our *actions*. Science, which maintains that we use only about 20% of our brain capacity, and which records genuises as well as imbeciles with up to 95% of ther brains missing, agrees. Only virtue is a virtue. Physical body parts, including brains, are not virtuous or good, because virtue and goodness and spiritual attributes, and should not be confused with physical ones.

Tom Jangelis

*Ed. Note: Philippe Rushton's and David Ankney's studies (Link, Sept. 22) cite data that women's brains are slightly smaller on average **than** men's, and that various "races" have different average penis sizes, for example. What's appalling is they use this data (and Western University's time) to back their claim that men are more capable than women, and Asians, then whites, are more "evolved" than blacks.*



Narcissism vs. life

For a self-proclaimed feminist, Sue Skoda sure sounds a lot like women's worst friend, *Cosmopolitan*.

Her attitude towards women is ludicrously condescending. We "let ourselves go to flab", while she "refuses to sit on [her] ass all day just because [she's] a woman". It's clear she sees womanhood as a flaw. Women are such lazy creatures not to exercise. We only work, study, raise children ... Obviously women who are overweight are doing it just to spite your "great body". Poor Sue.

I agree that exercise is inherently good, and, ideally, all women would be fit and strong. But although the current muscular, fit, cookie-cutter we are being pressured into is better than the super-thin look of the 70's, it is still an obligatory body-style which we are obliged to conform to. This is still oppression, even if it's a more logical, and possibly more healthy, oppression.

The New Our Bodies, Our Selves (*TNOBOS*) says "sudden and repeated weight loss may well be responsible for most of the diseases associated with fatness, but researchers don't consider this when drawing conclusions from their studies. We have not been able to find any studies to show that over the *long* run thinned-down fat people avoid or are cured of diseases associated with fatness. Women can be healthy, and still have some fat.

Obviously, your real body is the one you're comfortable in. Women shouldn't feel obliged to exercise, or obliged not to exercise. Saying that "maintaining your ideal weight is not painful unless you've got a five-dollar-a-day chocolate bar habit" is fair, if you accept that each woman has her own ideal weight. (Although you're thinking of obesity in stereotyped terms: "On the average, fat people do not eat more than thin people. Most fat women believe that they eat more than their thin friends but careful studies do not bear this out." (*TNOBOS*). But if you mean that any woman, with a little effort, can have a "perfect" body, this is alarmingly naïve. Aside from practical and physical constraints, maybe some women, despite saying they'd die for a great body, really have other things they'd rather do with their time. What's more important: narcissism or life?

Instead of trying to energize women by talking about how good it feels to exercise, and how much safer women are when they're strong, you rant about being persecuted for your "perfect" body, and make women who haven't got the time or resources for serious exercise feel like slobs.

Very empowering.

Joy Jones
Computer Science
Diploma Program

Attitudes about AIDS must change

It's been more than 10 years since Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome first made headlines, yet myths about the disease persist.

And perhaps because of the myths and misinformation about AIDS or the denial each of us fosters, consciously or subconsciously, that "it won't happen to me," we stay ignorant about AIDS.

The number of AIDS deaths in Canada rises each year. And it is estimated HIV infection is also increasing, especially among those who tend to couple ignorance about HIV with the belief they are invulnerable. Heterosexuals of all ages, especially teens and young adults, can't hide behind the big myth much longer. AIDS is not a "gay disease." The virus doesn't stop to inquire about sexual orientation before it infects.

Attitudes towards AIDS have to change. They have to change among educators so vital safe sex information reaches sexually active kids before it's too late.

Politicians and legislators cannot be allowed to ignore people living with AIDS and in poverty. It is unacceptable that some people living with AIDS are also living without enough money to buy proper food or medication.

Attitudes must also change in the medical establishment. If doctors don't know how to treat AIDS patients, then they must be taught. And it is also unacceptable that doctors are familiar with the symptoms of HIV infection in men but know next to nothing about the virus' effect on women.

Attitudes of researchers must also change so life expectancies of women with AIDS can progress beyond an average of six months. It is time the effects of the syndrome were researched among women. It is time pharmaceutical companies developed drugs designed to help women combat AIDS-related problems. Women shouldn't have to take drugs made for and tested on men.

And it is time we recognized that AIDS is a medical, social and political issue.

AIDS may start with a virus, but it is perpetuated through the attitudes of those who prohibit the teaching of safe sex strategies in schools.

And it is perpetuated by political inaction at a time when decisive action is essential, and when funding for a serious push to prevent the disease through education might be the only way to survive the AIDS crisis.

the Link

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editor
Lucy Niro
production manager
Neil Kandalgaonkar
news editors
Debbie Hum
Ita Kertdall
features editor
Open
fringe arts editors
James-Jason Lee
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Contributors:

Donald Theoret
Anuska Garcia
Paul Jeszenszky
Javier Martinez
Trent Newmeyer
Sweet-Lip T*
Elana Wright
Tracey Lavis
Jason Boyd
Kate Kung
Mark Brooker
David King
Ken McMurray

WORLD AIDS DAY 1992

RESOURCES

TESTING

CLSC Métro and CLSC Centre-Ville: Offer free and anonymous testing. Also offer counselling, treatment, referrals and education. CLSC Metro, at 1550 de Maisonneuve W. (934-0354) offers testing and counselling particularly directed toward women. CLSC Centre-Ville 847-0644

L'Actuel: HIV, STDs and AIDS testing for women. 1259 Berri, suite 520. 845-1333.

Alternative Clinic: Confidential HIV testing, medical treatment for people with HIV/AIDS and referrals. M-T: 9am to 5pm. F: 9am to 4pm. 2034 St. Hubert. 281-9848.

Clinique Medicale: Confidential HIV testing, treatment and follow-up, referrals. M-F 8am to 10pm; Sat. and Sun. 9am to 5pm. 1851 Sherbrooke E. 524-7564.

Head and Hands: Offers "non-nominal" testing — the staff will know your name but your sample will not be identifies as yours, nor will it be noted in your file that you've been tested. Counselling is available prior to and after the test. 481-0277.

Concordia's Health Services can refer you to other test centres.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

AIDS Intervention Centre — CLSC: 934-0552

INFO-SIDA: 282-9888, 282-9991

Info-MTS (STDs): 1-800-463-5656. Staffed by registered nurses. 24 hrs/day, 7 days/week. Bilingual.

The Federal Centre for AIDS: 301 Elgin St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1A Ol3.

McGill AIDS Centre: Lady Davis Institute, room 318, 3755 Côte-Ste.-Catherine. 340-7536, 340-7537.

SIDA Centre-Ville: 861-6644

CONDOMS AND NEEDLES

Cactus Montreal: Offers anonymous and free needle exchange and free condoms. 1209 Saint-Dominique. 954-8869

Concordia Health Services: Sells 5 condoms for $2. 2155 Guy (SGW) 848-3565. 6935 Sherbrooke W. (LOY) 848-3575.

Dans La Rue: this roving van, in service between 9pm and 4am, makes five stops around the city. Call them to find our when they'll be in your area. 938-0888 or 984-4247.

Point de Repere: Needle exchange. 561 St-Vallier.

Le Spectre: Offers free needle exchange and also gives out free bleach, distilled water, condoms, etc. 1509 de Maisonneuve E. 525-1670. Closed on Sundays.

COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT GROUPS

Cases of women with AIDS catching up to men's

by Marisa Celli

The rate of new cases of AIDS among women is now the same as that among men in Canada, but very little research is being done on how the disease affects women.

Women infected with HIV— the virus believed to cause AIDS—experience symptoms such as recurrent genital herpes, recurrent pelvic inflammatory disease and menstrual abnormalities. But doctors often dismiss these symptoms as regular gynaecological problems.

Montreal AIDS support groups are trying to increase awareness of AIDS and HIV among women.

"Women, like men, can carry the virus between 10 to 12 years before AIDS actually manifests itself," said Anne Martin, communication agent for AIDS Service Montreal (Women).

But once women are diagnosed with AIDS, they live an average of only six months because detection often comes too late, she said.

Quebec has the highest number of AIDS cases in Canada. Of the 289 Canadian women with AIDS, 65 per cent live in Quebec.

Ontario has the second highest rate with 27 per cent. Since 1979, 189 Canadian women have died from AIDS.

Groups such as the Montreal AIDS Support Committee (CSAM), its anglophone counterpart AIDS Community Gare Montreal (ACCM) and the Centre for AIDS Service Montreal (Women) offer counselling for HIV positive women.

Pierrette Sauriol, CSAM's animator for seropositive women, tries to create an atmosphere where women can talk about how they contracted the virus without fear of being judged by their peers.

"In 1992, people who have AIDS are becoming more and more isolated. It is important to let others know that AIDS is something human, a human risk," said Sauriol.

She said it is important for women to talk to someone they can trust about their concerns regarding AIDS or HIV infection.

Deborah Carruthers of ACCM has studied the psychosocial factors of HIV. Her research reveals that women blame themselves for spreading the infection to their children and partners. Seropositive pregnant women may also have to decide whether or not to end the pregnancy.

And research shows that single mothers are hardest hit by AIDS because their families rely on them as primary care-givers.

Symptoms of HIV Infection Specific to Women

Recurrent or persistent vulvovaginal candidiasls: a fungal infection of a woman's external genital organs.

Abnormal PAP smears: would detect cancer of the vagina and other STD's.

Cervical dysplasia due to papilloma virus: abnormality of the cervix due to small red lesion (looks somewhat like warts).

Persistent or recurrent genital herpes infection: repeating ulcerous lesions, somewhat whitish circle, the size of a dime at the vulva and on the groin.

Menstrual abnormalities: prolonged and excessive bleeding, spotting, intermittent bleeding between cycles.

Pelvic Inflammatory disease (PID): abscess, extremely toxic pus (thick, cheesy, yellowish-green) bloody, with a pungent smell. Abdominal pain and tenderness, constipation, vomiting and fe-

General Signs and Symptoms

Chronic Fatigue: excessive loss of energy or low capacity to respond physically and emotionally.

Fever: temperature of 38c and above (100F and above).

Chronic Diarrhoea: continuously watery or loose stool, also consists of a yellowish-white substance.

Weight loss: could be due to inflamed bowels, infection, cancer, anorexia, depression, kidney disease, or the system's incapacity to digest and use proteins and fats from food.

High price tag on AIDS medication unethical

by Jo-Anne Pickel

Recently, when I saw the ad for a lecture series at the McGill Centre for Medicine Ethics and Law, I couldn't help but be overwhelmed by the irony of the situation. The subject of the lecture series was ethics and the series sponsor was Astra Pharmaceuticals Inc., a company with a decidedly unethical way of making money.

Among other products, Astra manufacturers the drug Foscarnet used to prevent blindness in people with AIDS who develop CMV retinitis (an opportunistic infection related to HIV). Through a series of negotiations, activists in the U.S. have unsuccessfully tried to obtain a decrease in the price of Foscarnet from the currently unaffordable sum of $24,000 per year to $10,000 U.S. per year. At this year's International AIDS conference in Amsterdam, activists targetted Astra through a series of direct actions against

At the moment, Foscarnet has yet to be approved here and is provided free of cost to hospitals. But when it is approved—approval has been pending since April—the cost will not be covered by Medicare or any other government health department. It will be up to patients to bear the hgih cost of the drug as is the case, with Gancyclovir, another drug for the treatment of CMV retinitis. People must pay an average of $13,000 per year for Gancyclovir and those who can't tolerate it for whatever reason have no other alternative than teh more expensive Foscarnet. People who need these drugs and have no health insurance or could not get health insurance are either forced onto welfare to pay for the medication or left hanging.

This situation is only one of many examples of drug overpricing by pharmaceutical companies eager to make profits far above the costs of researching and develoing new drugs. Pharmaceutical companies will have you believe that the high prices are a result of the small "market" for their drugs. This "market" as they call it, is exanding all the time as people are living with AIDS for longer and longer periods of time and are depending on drugs like Foscarnet more than ever before.

I would suggest that representatives from Astra Pharmaceuticals should take a course in ethics rather than pouring money into cleaning up their image by sponsoring a lecture serires on the subject.

Quicky guide through condom shopping in Montreal

to anyone living with the reality of HIV. 3600 Hôtel-de-Ville. 282-6673

CSAM — Comité SIDA Aide Montréal: General guidance services, geared towards francophone and gay communities. 282-9888

HIV Anonymes: Alcoholics Anonymous-style support group for those living with HIV and AIDS. Meetings held in French on Thursday at 7:30 pm for women and men. 521-7663.

HIV/AIDS Bereavement: Organized by the McGill Social Work & AIDS Community Care Montreal for lovers, friends, family members, caregivers, volunteers and professionals who have lost someone due to HIV and AIDS. 398-7070, 939-0075, 932-6969.

SIPE — SIDA Information Prevention Ecoute: 331 St-Viateur.

WOMEN'S RESOURCES

Centre D'action SIDA Montréal — Femmes: Education and counselling for women. 1168 Ste-Catherine W. 954-0170

L'Actuel: 1259 Berri, suite 520. 845-1333.

Women's Action Group on AIDS: Part of ACT Up Mtl. Focuses on women and AIDS from a femintist perspective. 527-2423.

CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Chinese Neighbourhood Society: A new porgram for the Chinese community. 273-6441

GAP SIDA — Groupe D'Action pour la Prevention du SIDA dans la Communauté Haitienne: Information and support within the Haitian community. Information, education and counselling. M - F: 9am to 5pm. 722-5655.

Native Friendship Centre: A new program for the native community. 937-5338

AIDS HOSPICES

Chez Ma Cousine

Habitations Jean-Pierre Valiquette: Supervised apartments for people with HIV. 521-7432

Maison Amaryllis

Maison Célina-Jean

Maison Déhon: 384-0450

Maison D'Herelle: Beds for people with AIDS in need of care.

Maison Luc Larivée

Maison Ludovic

Maison Marc-Simon: (418) 687-4310

Maison Nazereth

Maison du Parc

Pavillon Sady Rajotte

Terre D'Emeraude

HIV Anonyme: Part of the CLSC Plateau Mont-Royal, offers medical treatment, home care and refferals. 4689 Papineau, 521-7663.

Société Canadienne de L'hémophile: Offers counselling and care for hemophiliacs. 1450 City Councillors, 848-0666

Société Canadienne du SIDA Info: (613) 230-3580, (613) 563-4998

FUNDRAISING

Farha Foundation: Lobbies for funding for HIV research. 1268 Beaumont. 342-5551

Fondation Joel-Gregory: Lobbies for funding for AIDS care. 1259 Berri

Action SIDA Laval: Education and counselling for youths and prostitutes. Support line and buddy system. 226 des Alpes, Pont Viau, Laval. 668-1230

ACCM — AIDS Community Care Montreal: Community support for HIV+ people and people with AIDS. 939-0075

ACT-UP Montreal — AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power: An activist group involved in public education and lobbying. 527-2423

CLSC Plateau Mt. Royal: Medical treatment, home-care and referrals.MTW: 8am to 8pm; Th, F: 8am to 6pm. 4689 Papineau. 521-7663

Concordia Health Services: Offers basic enquiries and counselling. 848-3565 (SGW), 848-3575 (LOY)

Concordia Guidance: General Guidance for students. 848-3545 (SGW), 848-3555 (LOY)

Centre for AIDS Services of Montreal: Information sessions and individual and group counselling for HIV+ women and their families. 844-5989

Centre SIDA Amitié: Counselling and education. 705 Laurentides Blvd. 432-9741

Coalition SIDA des Sourds du Quebec C.P. 604, Succ. C, Montreal, H2L 4L5. Info: 596-0346. Answering telephone service 1-800-363-6600

CPLHIV — The Coalition of People Living with HIV: Offers anonymous support, information, references and comfort

ence centre and by forcing the cancellation of a wine and cheese organized to promote Astra's products. Activists, AIDS groups, researchers and doctors have all denounced Astra for the unfair pricing of Foscarnet. Activists are calling for a boycott of all products manufactured by Astra pharmaceuticals Inc. In particular, they are urging dentists and physicians to replace one of the company's largest profit-making products, xylocain, with the generic products Lidocaine Hcl.

Lest you think this is only an American issue and that Canadians need not be worried because we have a system of "socialized medicine," don't be fooled.

GRAPHIC BY P. JAVIER MARTINEZ

Steroid users not immune to AIDS

Steroid users who share needles are at the same risk of contracting AIDS as someone who shoots heroin, says the Concordia Health Services Clinical Coordinator.

"AIDS is always a possibility when people share needles," said Angie Siano. "It doesn't matter what your taking; insulin, illicit drugs, steriods, etc. The substance doesn't matter."

The dialogue surrounding steroid use and AIDS is popular amoung medical circles but is often discouraged in athletics. Concordia's Athletic Department had little to say concerning steriods. But said there is always going to be some steriod use and no one has AIDS from steriod use yet, to their knowledge.

"There are no real statistics on it," said Daniel Bégin of CSAM. "It's easier for people to admit to using cocaine then to admit to (injecting) steroids. If they're athletes they could be perceived as cheating."

No matter what position your in, there is a sure fire way to avoid contracting HIV: don't share needles, ever.

—Paul S. Jeszenszky

Rubber dub dub review

by James-Jason Lee

There are more condoms available to shoppers than you can shake a stick at.

Along with the pharmaceutical brands, there are a plethora of joke/novelty and deluxe rubbers. Discerning condoms which are enjoyable and effective, and for safer sex, from those which are decorative, can be daunting.

The owner of Le Cadeau d'Amour—which recently opened its doors this summer—offered helpful tips on safer sex condoms:

"When purchasing condoms, make sure there is an expiration date on the box," Aida Fokas said.

"Next to the expiration date, there will be a lot number. The lot number is designated by Health and Welfare Canada."

Lot numbers are awarded when manufacturers self-test their condoms and meet government standards. The testing includes a bursting volume test, which measures a condom's structural strength, and a pin-hole test, which checks for flaws in the latex.

But some novelty condoms are not government-approved if they have three-digit lot numbers instead of the standard six to seven.

"It is important to purchase condoms from a reputable store. You should ask the people at the stores about the condoms," said Diane Bellemare, the health educator at Concordia's health services.

Condom's effectiveness also depends on proper usage, added Fokas.

And standards of testing are not the only things that makes condoms different from each other.

Drugstore condoms are non-lubricated, lubricated, lubricated with spermicide, studded, ribbed, form-fitting, and in varying colours.

And tested flavoured condoms—which are not usually sold in drugstores— can be found in a growing number of condom specialty shops. These come in a myriad of fruity flavours.

But what makes a good condom?

Fokas listed the following criteria: comfort, appearance, texture, smell, and taste.

•Comfort: Larger condoms are a marketing gimmick because most of them can be pulled over your head (the one with eyes and ears) and can accomodate any penis size, although some brands are wider than others.

•Appearance: Condoms can be either powdery or clear, with or without colour. Their appearance contributes to pleasurable coitus, anal and oral sex.

•Texture and thickness: Latex quality determines condoms' smoothness and thickness. Sheerness is desirable because it's associated with a "'natural" feeling. Japan's latex industry has specialized in making strong, smooth, and sheer condoms.

•Smell and taste: A good smelling and tasting condom is ideal for oral sex. Higher quality latex tends to have a more neutral taste. Some flavoured condoms—once a novelty item—are now being tested and are aimed at getting around latex's usual rubber tire taste.

Dental dams can be used for clitoral oral sex, but they are extremely thick, reduce sensitivity and tend to limit tongue penetration and movement.

Concordia's Health Services recommends cutting latex gloves in half and using the finger as a sleeve for the tongue. Latex gloves are thinner and more available than dental dams, but dental dams can be re-used if they are carefully washed and treated.

Le Cadeau d'Amour is located on 1433 Bishop. Health Services is at 2155 Guy, ER-407 and 6935 Sherbrooke Street West, CH-101.

Rubber dub dub review

by James-Jason Lee

Safe sex requires reliable and pleasing gear. A latex barrier can set the mood for any romantic encounter, like a good *vino*. A condom should be discrete, aesthetic or funny, inspiring or erotic, silky or stimulating, but never just a limp piece of rubber that gets in the way.

Condom shops are popping up in the downtown area, and offer a wide variety of products. I sampled a selection last week.

Flavoured:

•*Fruty*—made for Fruty Marketing—was pasty, overly pungent and discouraged any action. An ugly and flavoured condom which shrinks next to its competition.

•*Kiss of Mint*, made by Ansell, is medicine-flavoured with a mint aftertaste. Covered in a white powder, it's not aesthetically pleasing, but usable for oral sex.

•*Jiffi Orange* and *Jiffi Peach*, made by Jiffi, are lightly-flavoured. The good quality latex doesn't overpower the orange or peach flavours. *Jiffi* also avoids the powderiness of other condoms. While the peach was faint, the orange was a citrusy pleasure with a hint of the bitterness of the rind. The orange condom also has a shocking colour which actually casts a gentle, warm and erotic hue on skin.

•*Maple syrup*—made in Quebec—used with a non-lubricated *Sheik*, a Julius Schmid product, was a nice combination. The condom had a discrete pale colour with a roomy tip, maybe too roomy. It was a perfect match for the smokey and brusque maple syrup. On its own, the Sheik is a reliable work-horse for all sexual practices. But with the maple syrup, it is a wonderfully sticky oral experience.

•*Rough Rider*, also made by Ansell, is studded and lubricated. It has a strong latex flavour deterring oral applications. The studs don't provide the wanted ride

.•*Beyond Seven*—made and distributed by Okamoto—is a super sheer condom with light lubrication. The latex is smooth and a transparent light blue. The condom is also flattering on a penis. It has a neutral flavour and smell. Snug and comfortable, it feels as if it isn't there. It was definitely the most enjoyable unflavoured condom.

Fondation SIDA Secours du Quebec: Lobbies for funding for housing and shelter. Info: 521-7432

Fondation Tavara Groleau. Info: 847-0387.

PUBLICATIONS

One Voice. CSAM's English language bimonthly. For a subscription write to: One Voice c/o Comité Sida Aide Montréal, 3600 Hôtel-de-Ville, Montréal, H2X 3B6.

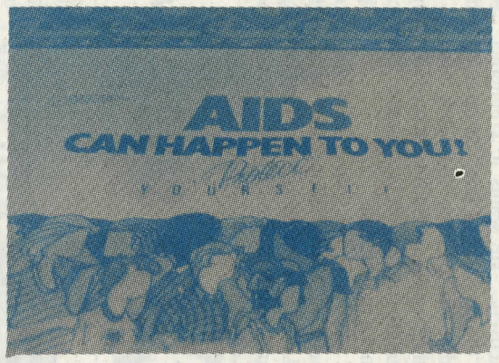
The Complete Guide to Safer Sex. Clark Taylor, Ph.D, ed. The Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality. Barricade Books.

The Guide to Living with HIV Infection. John Bartlett, M.D. and Ann K. Finkbriaer. The John Hopkins University Press.

Surviving with AIDS — A Comprehensive Program of Nutritional Co-Therapy. C. Wayne Callaway, M.D. and Catherine Whitney. Little, Brown and Company.

The Positive Side Spring 1992.

Teens' video project zooms in on sex and protection



by Kate Kung

It's 10 p.m. Do you know what your children are doing?

Some of them are involved in a video project addressing issues of safer sex, AIDS and teenage pregnancy.

Co-ordinated by Concordia student Wagner Rulli and working in conjunction with the YMCA, more than a dozen young members of Youth Productions are using videos to educate other teens on the need for protected sex.

"A lot of (youth) are scared," said Jessica Blair, 17. "They don't want to talk about it."

"Some guys are ashamed of going to the drugstore to buy condoms or they figure it won't happen to them," added Bill Baggott, who is also 17.

The media and school boards are ignoring teenage sex, specifically unprotected sex—to the point where a new-age religious group started a condom distribution campaign in Montreal Catholic high schools,

"We talk about the most basic stuff," said Rob Liautaud, a16-year old Options High School. "We haven't gotten around to talking about safe sex."

Although the general message is to promote the use of condoms, the educational stategies are different. So too, do the audiences.

"From what I see, most guys who don't put enough effort into safer sex. A condom is just not that important to them," said student Amal Asmar. She added that teens who do use condoms do so for different reasons.

"Females are more worried about getting pregnant, males are more worried of getting a disease."

Many teens working on this project want to get the serious message across to both their peers and adults.

"We should be listened to. (Adults) don't think our opinions count," Blair said.

"This is very unfair. Some teens are into politics and safer sex, and probably know more than adults about safer sex."

"Through this video we can bring up issues in such a way as to make it interesting," said Asmar.

Blair wraps up the whole issue bluntly. "The attitude should be, if you don't use one, you don't get (sex)."

Antidotes to "an epidemic of metaphors and symbols"

by Daniel Mitchell

Two new books from local publishers—*A Leap in the Dark* from Véhicule Press and *Dying with AIDS/Living with AIDS* from The Muses' Company—are moving additions to the growing body of HIV and AIDS literature.

Both books share a positive attitude toward reclaiming life in the face of death, an unflagging attention to personal connections and a desire to demystify what has become not only "an epidemic of disease and death" but "an epidemic of metaphors and symbols that separate people."

After *A Leap in the Dark* editors Allan Klusacek and Ken Morrison saw a mutual friend die of AIDS, they became actively involved in AIDS prevention, sensitization, and activism

"It became more than an abstract threat but a very personal and physical one," they write in the book's introduction. "We were compelled to do something about our frustration, sadness and anger."

Unlike*Dying with AIDS/Living with AIDS* by Mark Leslie—which is a personal diary—*A Leap in the Dark* is a wide collection of work ranging from academic essays on the history of infectious transmission to personal texts on HIV/AIDS, self-affirmation and education through the arts.

A Leap in the Dark's first section—called*History Teaches: What Have We Learned*—gives a historical introduction to HIV and AIDS .

"(The section) illustrates that many of the social responses to AIDS, including stigmatization and discrimination, are not new but merely contemporary manifestations of earlier reactions to other epidemics."

The personal reactions are gripping. In *Forty Seconds of AIDS*, Herbert Daniel relates the initial moments after he is diagnosed with Pneumocystis carinii, a common symptom of AIDS.

"I very probably never had the pneumonia that [the doctor] had diagnosed. He very probably 'saw' the P.carinii through the lens of my homosexuality, as so many 'doctors' have come to do."

So Daniel concludes: "What's left is life. Forty seconds at a time. Intensely." He wants to counteract "the prophets of fear" by insisting that AIDS is not "the worst thing that could happen to a person. It is a tragic situation. It is a disease, it is not a melodrama."

As for *Dying with AIDS/Living with AIDS* by Montrealer Mark Leslie, it details his harrowing but ultimately liberating experience with AIDS.

The book's confessional diary form shows, through Leslie's own admission, that "although AIDS is a horrible disease that I wouldn't wish on anyone, in some ways it has been a liberating influence in my life."

Leslie describes his book—which includes pasted photographs, colour-copies and handwritten text—as "an ongoing documentary or diary about my life with this disease and about friends and acquaintances of mine living, or dying, with AIDS."

Some of the most vivid photographs are ones Leslie took of his feet on Fire Island, New York. He photographed his feet walking into and out of the ocean.

A Leap in the Dark: Aids, Art & Contemporary Culture
edited by Allan Klusaceck and Ken Morrison
Véhicule Press, 320 pp, $19.95

Dying with Aids\Living with Aids
by Mark Leslie
The Muses' Company, 74 pp, $20.95

A yahd of Saran an a rubba bann

Sexuality is one medium that allows us as human beings to connect. Expressed properly, it could strip us of our conditioning leaving us open and vulnerable. Aquiring the immune deficiency syndrome is the denial of a safe self. Combined with sexual guilt and a strong belief in not being good enough. Therefore a healthy sexual discipline is vital for the mirror imaging necessary in promoting a positive acceptance of our bodies ourselves.

Well-nurtured, our sexuality can be the channel by which we attempt to unite our physical with our spiritual. Thus safety when exploring our erotic capacities is the balance needed in developing attitudes of trust and sharing.

The motivating factors in giving and receiving in relationships of any kind especially one of a sexual nature is the willingness to be informed about how best we can love each other.

As Africans in the diaspora, we are epidemically infected by the practical practiced perversions of the broader societies. We as a people lack the proper medical care and overall education but especially in relation to this virus.

We are also aware that poverty is a major contributor to the perpetuation and spread of this sicknesss. For example: if you don't have the funds to purchase dams, gloves or 'doms you may decide to use saran wrap. Smart right?....WRONG!!!!!! Not even if it's microwavable.

We have internalized the external messages of hate and worthlessness whicle refusing to validate their effects of our reality.

We are challenged to shape new perceptions of self. To fully understand the divine magnificence in all that we are. We must once again discover how to rejoice in our sexuality.

What is sexuality, you ask? Sexuality is expression. It is loving communication not solely reliant on language for understanding.

It is an intricate and vital part of our being as is our soul. We as sexual beings are challenged to heal. Please be safe, not dead!

*—Sweet Lip T**

Visual AIDS: finding the untold stories

In the latter part of October, a group of five theatre students were asked to do a fifteen minute improvised skit for a presentation in the Hall Building on World AIDS Day. When asked to do the presentation, we jumped at it. Although we concentrated on the education of AIDS awareness as our objective, it was not until our rehearsals and workshops that we realized that we were educating ourselves as well.

We called ourselves Visual Aids, and working with Diane Bellman at Concordia Health Services, we performed a piece called "Don't Swallow this at Home."

In our original meetings, we gathered together some of the primary issues we wanted to cover in our improvisations: AIDS and women, AIDS and needles, AIDS as a sexually transmitted disease.

However, as these workshops progressed, we found that the areas we really wanted to cover were questions that were neither talked about enough nor exposed enough in the all-too-generalised media. These include woman-to-woman transmission, oral sex between gay men (blow jobs, rimming, etc.) and the problems problems a woman might encounter after a drunken one night stand.

We also came to realize some scarcely covered issues which we must deal with in conjuction with AIDS. For instance, although french kissing may be commonly considered low risk in terms of HIV transmission, while rimming is regarded as high risk, we should not forget that we are also faced with the chances of transmitting herpes, genital warts, or, in the case of rimming, hepatitis.

Another issue to focus upon was the young female student - or gay man, as the younger ones seem to be at a very high risk in their sexual encounters - who can't remember whether or not a condom was used during a drunken one-night stand. Can we not deduct from statistics alone that transmission is frequently occuring while we are under the influence of drugs or alcohol?

Visual Aids wanted to address issues that could prevent HIV/AIDS transmission. However, the group as a whole displayed these problems for other reasons. There are too many people who feel they have heard enough. One may sense some validity in this, since many of us are hearing the same things repeatedly. It would be devastating to see the effects that this 'silence' might cause, let alone the economic hardships that are to come when the virus is totally out-of-control (or is it already?)

Visual Aids has done research and some analysis into the areas for our World AIDS Day performance, that we felt have been left by the wayside.

I sincerely wish, as the cold Quilt gets bigger, that there other groups will constantly explore new issues so as not to exhaust the repetitive issues that we are so often presented with.

—David King

Romance and risk beyond unsafe sex

For those who are informed about how HIV is transmitted through sexual activity, there is always the lurking awareness that AIDS can rear its ugly head.

The classification of sexual acts into high, medium, and low-risk levels, as well as the use of never infallible condoms, gloves, and dental dams does not guaranteethe prevention of HIV transmission.

But for some, safer sex sometimes means no erotic sex. Those who were part of the pre-AIDS sexual world look back nostalgically on this golden age of sexual promiscuity. But then, they are forced to confront today's sexual realities, which are fraught with paranoia. And certain sexual acts are taboo and everything is coated in latex and topped with spermicial jams and jellies.

Those who have frolicked in a pre-AIDS world often find it hard to adapt to safer-sex proscriptions to keep that passion alive.

AIDS information services have eroticized safer sex to counteract the idea that safer sex is is unerotic and sexually inhibiting. These services have transformed something as banal as putiing on a condom into a performance rivalling Salome's Dance of the Seven Veils.

Even last year's now infamous page 165 of the CUSA handbook contained an erotic safer sex guide for gay men. But reactionary straight readers entirely missed the piece's point.

For those who have sexually matured in this age of AIDS, erotic safe sex is (for most) second nature, and the sense of a pastoral sexual world is something disassociated from their reality.

However, the tendency towards monogamous relationships could be seen as an attempt to regain this. But a monogamous relationship is only as strong as its human parts, and humans are far from being constant.

A monogamous relationship should not mean you should throw safe sex out the window. Can you always be sure your lover will be faithful? Are you aware of your lover's sexual history before the realtionship? Have you both been tested for HIV?

So monogamy is not fail-safe, but promiscuity is less so. Promiscuity in the age of AIDS is a pressing dilemna

But the fetishization of danger and risk exists for people who think unsafe sex is a psychological thrill. This happens primarily in the Queer Community, where people are aware of safer sex. Since the guidelines are now clearly defined for the Community, they can be broken. For the straight population, there is still the mindset that heterosexual sex is inherently safe. But all one needs to do is to meet HIV+ hets who thought they were immune to AIDS. Weigh your options carefully, make the decision and live with it.

—Jason Boyd and Trent Newmeyer

Living on the outside

by Donald Theoret

Homelessness and AIDS are subjects rarely lumped together as a single problem. Yet Concordia graduate Lina Moreco's documentary, *Vivre à Mort*, is more than likely to make you think otherwise.

Exploring the lives of four homeless men, all of whom are in their late thirties and early forties, *Vivre à Mort* reveals the downside of living on the streets, where the risk of getting infected with AIDS is a much higher threat.

"[My film] takes place entirely on the streets. These men are aware that their behaviour puts them at risk, but they have difficulty changing their habits. They try to get out [of this environment] but find it a very hard thing to do. "

Of the four men interviewed in the 15 minute short, only one has full-blown AIDS. The others talk about their unsafe practises and how their habits derive from living off the steets.

In keeping with the objectivity of the medium, Moreco offers little commentary, choosing instead to let her subjects do all the talking, freely and without interruption.

"I didn't cut away from [my subjects] during the interviews. I let them talk as long as they wanted to so that we could learn more from them. "

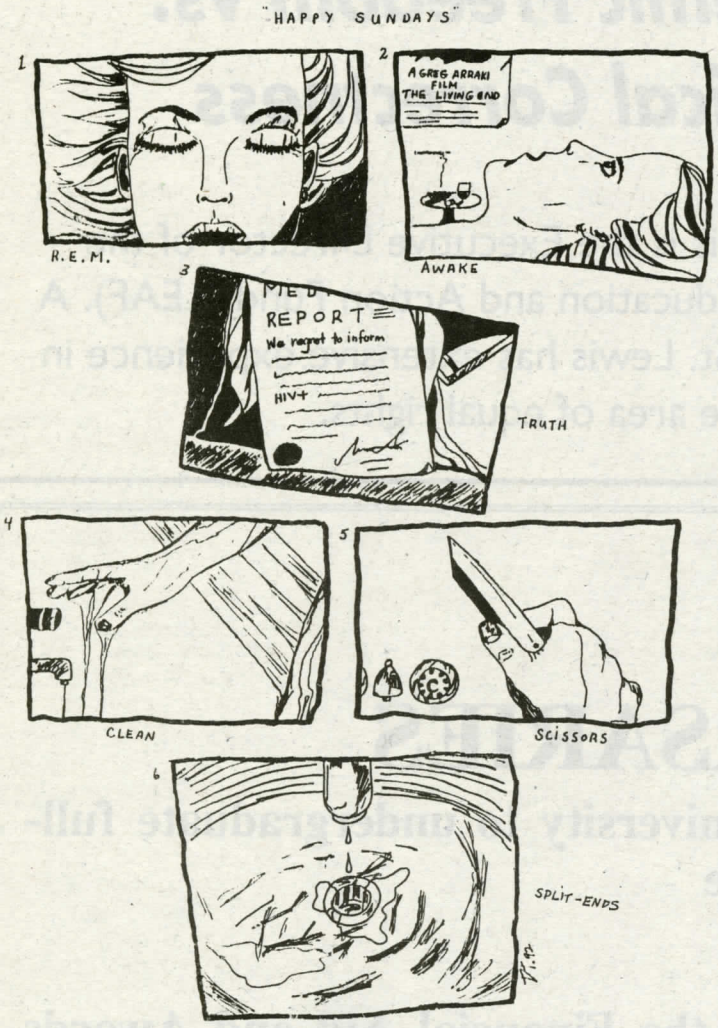
Moreco chose to do a documentary on this subject as part of a film competition called **La course documentaire sur le SIDA dans le milieu itinérant** held last May. In June, Moreco learnt she had won an award for Best Direction from Radio-Québec as well as an award for Best Screenplay (content) from SIDA Sécours, an organization which provides help to those afflicted with the virus.

Other winners in the competition include Stéphane Henault from l'Université de Montréal and Hugo Brochu from l'Université du Québec.

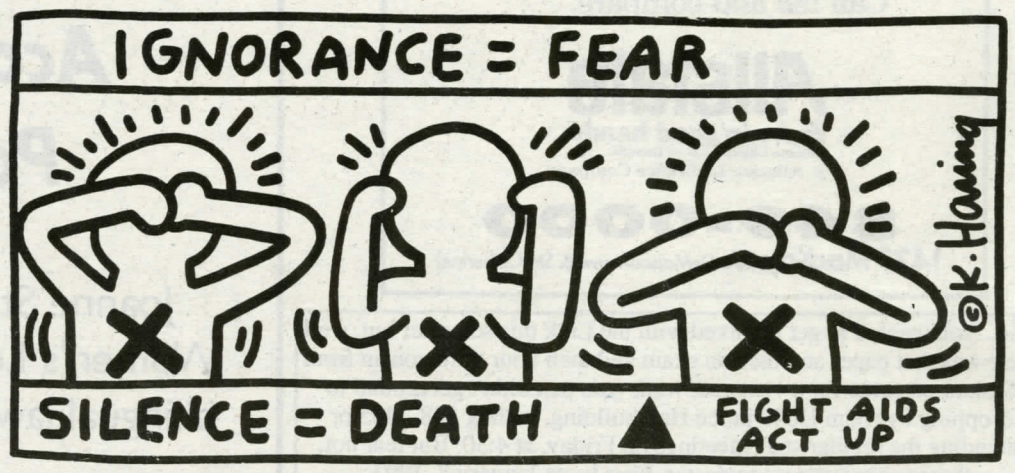
Competition aside, Lina is satisfied with the work she did on her film. Making films which explore social and economic problems within our society is something which tends to fuel her drive and ambition. Her previous documentary, a half-hour short, explored the sad cases of children and adolescents who are institutionalized. Working on *Vivre à Mort* proved to be, like her previous film, a very sobering experience.

"It changed my attitude about people who live on the steets. I mean, we are all prejudiced to some degree. By talking to these men I learned a lot about myself and how we should behave towards people who are [downtrodden] . We have an opportunity to learn if we just take time to listen. "

Radio-Québec will broadcast ***Vivre àMort*** *and the other award-winning films on Saturday, December 5, at 11 p.m. .*



GRAPHIC BY DONALD THEORET



Keith Haring, *Untitled*, billboard design at *From Media to Metaphor: Art About AIDS.*

Art about AIDS

by Tracey Lavis
and Elana Wright

First called GRID (Gay-related Immune Deficiency) and CAID (Community Acquired Immune Deficiency), finally in 1982, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) was named.

In the following years, the general public was subjected to non-representative depictions of people with AIDS (PWA) by the mainstream media. A constant barrage of statistics regarding nameless, faceless gay men and IV drug users, doomed to die in agony, was occasionally countered with a tragically heroic story of a person infected by AIDS-tainted blood during a transfusion. "Victims" were classified by guilt or innocence.

During that period, art about AIDS was virtually unheard of, partly because many artists were afraid of penalization.

Now, 10 years after the acknowledgement of AIDS, there are approximately 500 artists in the United States who put AIDS at the forefront of their work. People living with AIDS, be they PWA's, caregivers, or activists, are now able to represent their own experiences with AIDS, instead of leaving it up to the unsympathetic media.

From Media To Metaphor: Art About AIDS, an exhibition of works mostly from the U.S., varying from video to photography to wood carving, expresses artists' responses to the crisis. The show is being held at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal.

"Can art save lives?"

"Not directly. But it can help the rest of us live."

These closing comments, taken from a dialogue style essay between guest curators Thomas Sokolowski and Robert Atkins, are representative of the exhibit's purpose: activism and awareness.

Much of the work has origins in activist public-awareness campaigns such as Gran Fury's video "Kissing Doesn't Kill: Greed and Indifference Do" and Diane Neumaier's photos of a postering campaign in New York subways. The posters gave information about cleaning syringes and using condoms.

"Can art save lives?" "Not directly, but it can help the rest of us live."

More personal and emotional responses to the way AIDS has affected these artists' lives are realized through works such as Duane Michaels' photo series "The Dream of Flowers". "The Dream..." shows the achingly slow process of death for many PWA's through images of a sleeping man's face gradually being covered with flowers.

A room in the exhibit is devoted to Montrealer Mark Leslie's photography and accompanying journal entries, called "Dying with AIDS/Living with AIDS". Leslie's intimate self-reflection is powerful and sobering. Two videos, Anne Golden's "Les Autres" and Esther Valiquette's "Le Récit d'A", make up the other local components of the exhibit.

As artists are motivated or inspired differently, their creations invariably evoke reactions ranging from sorrow to anger and disgust. And not every artist is praised for his/her efforts. Nicholas Nixon 1988 exhibition "Portraits of People" was and often still is criticized for depicting PWAs as pitiful emaciated individuals. This "negative" image was and is challenged by activists because it was seen to perpetuate a stereotype of PWAs.

Becoming increasingly important has been the downplaying of negative images of those suffering with AIDS. The focus has shifted to represent the reality that many people with AIDS lead relatively healthy, active lives; they can be as sexy and vibrant as someone without AIDS.

While it is essential to explore all aspects of the crisis, it is important that we do not become overwhelmed by the media's often biased representation. The fact is there are many facets to living and dying with AIDS. Thankfully artists are contributing to greater public-awareness. Until there is a cure, we have no choice but to increase our familiarity with living with the HIV virus and AIDS. From Media *to Metaphor* is an exhibit which will stimulate and encourage us to understand and to take action.

From Media to Metaphor: Art About AIDS, *until January 3rd at the Musée d'art contemporain at Place des Arts. Free for everyone Wednesday from 6 to 9 pm, otherwise students pay $4 and grown-ups pay $8.*

Read the fine print, says lawyer

continued from page 3

"assisted suicide," they do permit patients to keep doctors from going to "extraordinary or heroic measures" to keep a patient alive.

Ginsberg says people with AIDS or HIV who own insurance policies should check that their insurance actually covers them.

"Always read the fine print on insurance policies, there will likely be exclusions applying to any terminal diseases," he says.

"If you have group health insurance at work and your employer decides to change insurance companies, you may be excluded from the new policy if you are HIV positive. An illness which was already there is not usually covered by a new policy."

For that reason, Ginsberg advises against upgrading or changing anything about a current policy.

Travel insurance does not require completion of an extensive questionnaire but it will not cover an HIV positive person who gets sick while out of the country, he says.

Ginsberg says these rules apply to retired Canadians who spend the winter in Florida.

Even mortgage insurance may not be granted to sick people. This means HIV positive people may have trouble buying a house.

The conference was sponsored by the Montreal Aids Support Committee (CSAM).

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The Faculty of Arts and Science is pleased to announce the first in its annual series of lectures on gender, race and class.

Joanne St. Lewis will speak on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 1992 at 8:00 p.m. in the Alumni Auditorium (H-110)

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Joanne St. Lewis is the Executive Director of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF). A bilingual lawyer, St. Lewis has extensive experience in the area of equal rights.

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Station to station

Television still state of the art

by Stephen Smegelski

New York band **Television** have a unique spot in rock history. Coming out of the New York punk/new wave scene of the late 70s—the same scene which brought us **Patti Smith**, **Talking Heads** and the **Ramones**—the group proved it won't commit to any particular movement.

"We've been trying to get somebody to define us for so long," said **Television** guitarist Richard Lloyd. "It hasn't worked. Maybe punk works for the **Ramones**, not for us. What is punk, new wave? You care to the point where you'd reach as many people as possible."

After releasing two influential albums—including *Marquee Moon* which frequently makes critics' lists of best albums ever—**Television** disappeared for more than a decade.

So it was a surprise when they released a brilliant new album this fall.

The band in its original form—Lloyd, singer/guitarist Tom Verlaine, bassist Fred Smith, and drummer Billy Ficca—made their Montreal debut at Club Soda Sunday to an enthusiastic crowd. Guitarist Lloyd took time during sound check to dispel myths surrounding the band.

Lloyd said he doesn't consider the group's new efforts to be a reunion.

"We don't pay attention to it like that," he said. "When we'd stopped, it was casual," Lloyd said.

"It was like, 'I'm so tired of this, let's do something else.' Nobody gave a shit. We said 'Ok, see you' and then we didn't see each other for six to seven years."

Was it tough playing together again?

"It was really easy. That's the other misconception. There was no break-up, no anger. It was the other nonsense that made us stop. Reality stuff. Life and reality are two separate things," Lloyd responded.

"There were 10 record companies that wanted us. They had to sign us based on what we wanted, on our word. We wittled it down after they asked how much money we wanted."

And how did they get back together?

"The first time we spoke about it was in '88. (singer/guitarist) Tom had a contract to complete for his albums. (Bassist) Fred was in a band. But it actually took longer to get a record company than to decide to play again."

Television's audience has also gotten younger, according to Lloyd.

"Now college radio is really big. I don't think anyone who came to see us back then would get out of bed to see us now," he said.

"There are a few dimwits and air guitarists who come to our shows but they're ok too."

Television has influenced several other bands. **U2** guitarist The Edge has cited Verlaine as being one of his main influences.

"I feel fine about that," said Lloyd laughing. "They should send us all a hefty cheque out of love to add to the dimensions of their plagiarism. It's wonderful if it brings new fans to the band."

Lloyd also talked about the band's songwriting process.

"Every song is completely different from the other. Some songs Tom has well completed. Others come out of play between the band. Tom kind of acts like an editor."

When asked whether the acoustic work Verlaine has been doing has had an effect on the group's approach to music, Lloyd said: "We did an MTV-type gig in England where we did an acoustic version of *No Glamour For Willi*. But we don't use acoustic instruments normally. All our stuff is electric."

At **Television**'s Sunday show, standing cooly on the small stage, the group played both old and new material. From the gorgeous pop of *Venus* and *Prove It* to its recent compositions such as *1880 or so* and the noirish *Mr. Lee*, **Television** lived up to its visionary guitar band status. Their encore featured the 10-minute classic *Marquee Moon* , which illustrated the group's enduring qualities.

Tom Verlaine said after the show that although their tour has been financially draining, their sell-out shows have prompted the band to keep moving.

When asked if there will be another **Television** album Verlaine said: "It's never a one-shot deal."

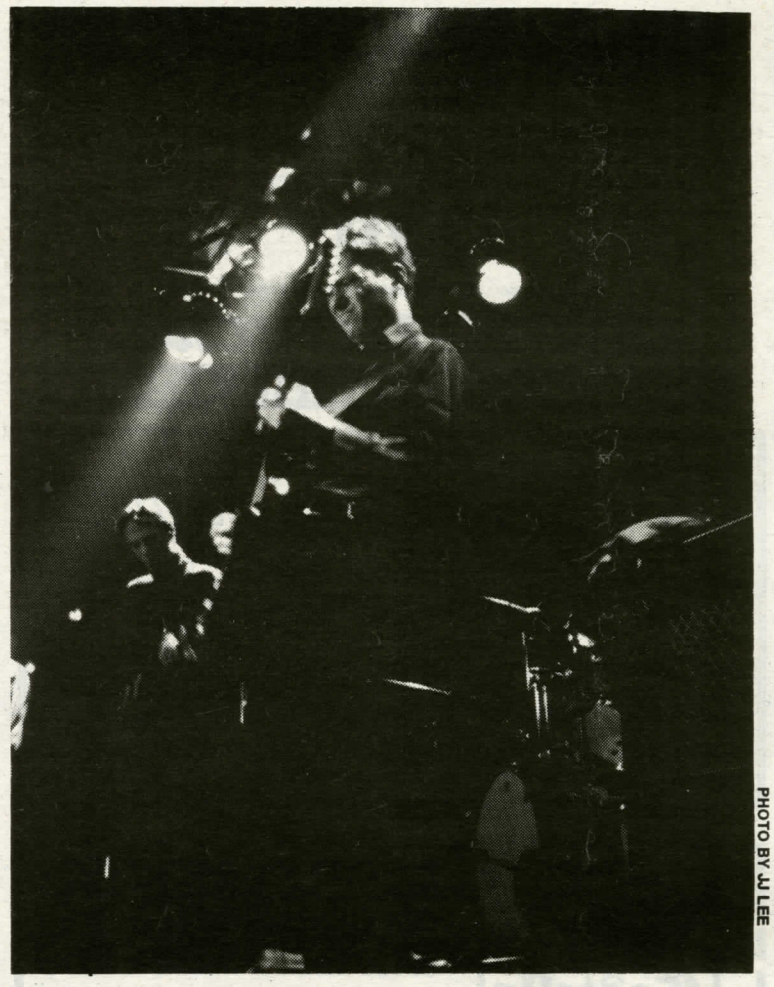

PHOTO BY JJ LEE

***Television* guitarists Tom Verlaine and Richard Lloyd.**

PHOTO BY KATE KUNG

Woman called Denise getting her navel pierced at K.O.X.

Piercing the primitive underground

by Anuska Garcia

He put on his white rubber glove. Denise, a bottle-blond woman with the ponytail lay across, exposing her bare round, white belly to the scads of people clinging to the fence at K.O.X. Pierre, better known as Black Sun, was performing for the first time in Montreal for CKUT's fifth anniversary, *Modern Primitives*.

He probed the navel area, and reached for a clamp. He carefully marked the areas where she was to be pierced through for a pretty thick ring. He made two black marks, kept the clamp on and reached for a 12-gauge (knitting size) needle. The lights bounced off the whiteness of her smooth skin as a trickle of blood appeared over a small red bump over the needle he placed. She was smiling, not a hint of pain in her face. He put a bead in the ring and tightened it shut on the bead itself.

"It was great—exhilarating. And it's the largest show I've done." says Pierre," I did a total of four shows in Ottawa at Taktiks and the White Room which closed down. The response varied from 'fuckin' freaks!' to genuinely being impressed."

A previous piercing was on the Torture King himself from the **Jim Rose Circus Sideshow**. Pierre pierced his nipple and he was preening for the camera and applauses.

Next up was Nathalie Jean, who has had several piercings from him. Jean has seven rings in right ear, two in the left ear, three right eyebrow rings, two nose rings, one metal bar through the tongue, a ring through her right nipple, three labia piercings and two tattoos.

"A walking propaganda..." explains Pierre, "She's my poster girl."

"I got called a queer woman by *another* queer woman, it's so weird. You're just interested in *being* in the show.....but what a rush!" Jean declares after the show.

Sitting in the café, Jean twinkles as she recounts how she got interested in the modern primitive movement.

"I've been interested in it for the last three years but I only took it seriously a while ago," she said," Moving to Montreal two years ago from Ottawa did it. In Ottawa it didn't really exist that I know of. I got in contact with Pierre at the **Jim Rose Circus Sideshow** performance in January at Foufounes. It sounds cheesy for me to say but after I saw Mr. Lifto I got it done."

On the other side of the room Ilio from San Francisco was tattooing with meticulousness and great patience as people watched.

And later on that night....scarification. A certain Wolfgang from Seattle, a friend of Pierre's did "play" piercings—sticking needles inside his body and pulling them out again.

Droves of photographers were hovering around the small black wooden box where Pierre was piercing. K.O.X. was crowded with all kinds of creatures that night: from the straightlaced types to torture S&M fanatics, hets, queers and of course, music industry monsters.

Quite frequently [the customers] I get are 30, 40, 50-year-olds and one of my repeat customers is 60 years old."

"I always felt as if I have to justify myself about (the piercing).says Pierre," My personal interest in this is to improve the quality of the piercings on my body as well as lack of availabilty in local piercing."

And is there something Pierre will not do in terms of body modification?

"I don't do scarification professionally. Or branding. Anything besides that is arranged personally with me."

"I don't even consider myself a Modern Primitive. I appreciate the aesthetic of it but I don't think it's an entirely developed movement. It applies to the spirituality, towards achieving altered states through pain. I relate to Modern Primitives in terms of the spiritual part of it. But I pierce because I like the sensations, the increased sensitivity and the aesthetics, the way it looks. Before I've even heard the word 'modern primitive' I was into piercing and scarification.

Black Sun piercings are available by appointment at 345-5701.

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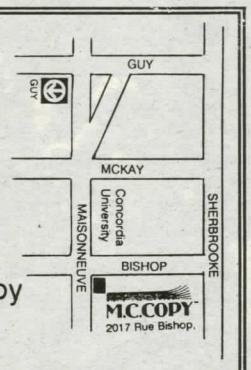

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Continued from page 4

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Are you stressed out? Don't worry, we're here to listen. Come see us at the Peer Helper Centre located at 2130 Bishop.

WOMEN

Women performers! If you do music, dance, poetry, or performance but there seems to be no venues, don't despair! CUSA Women's Issues is starting a monthly Women Performers Night at Reggie's next semester. For info, call Emily or Kristen at 848-7474.

Lesbian Rugby and/or volleyball team: No experience is necessary! Info, comments, suggestions please call Luanna or Monia at 762-5545.

HIV+ women and Women living with AIDS: the centre for AIDS services of Montreal provides info Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm, 1168 Ste-Catherine W, suite 202. Info: 954-0170.

Biblio-café Labyris: lesbian cultural centre café and library open from 7-10pm, 2025 Gilford every Thursday. Info: 524-1336.

Feminist tours of Montreal! Info: L'Autre Montréal, 521-7802.

The new edition of Concordia Resources for Women book available at the Status of Women office, 2150 Bishop, and at the Concordia Women's Centre, 2020 Mackay, downstairs.

Volunteers needed at the Centre d'Action SIDA Montréal (Femmes) 1168 Ste-Catherine O, suite 202. Training is provided. Info: 954-0170.

Bi-the-Way, a discussion group for bisexual women holds meetings every Friday at 8pm at the McGill Women's Union. Info: 598-8661.

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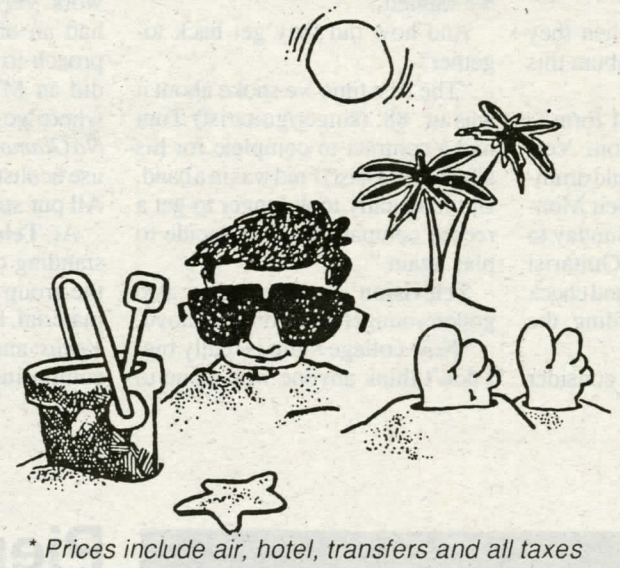

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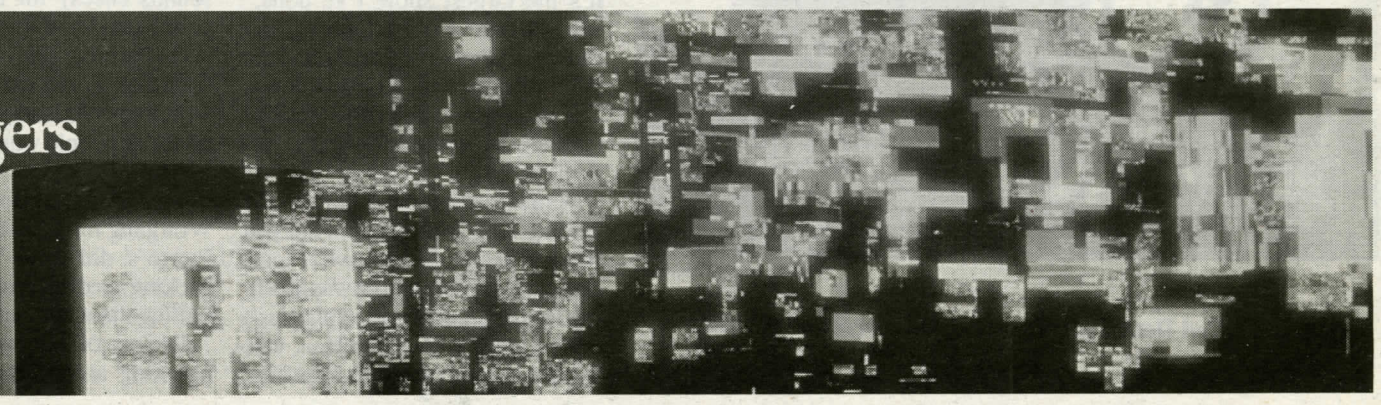
Count on us CGA, multifaceted managers

LA CORPORATION PROFESSIONNELLE DES COMPTABLES GÉNÉRAUX LICENCIÉS DU QUÉBEC